

Review of AEZ Policy

871. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a review of the Agri Export Zones Policy in the light of the performance of such zones so far;

(b) if so, the Export-Zones whose performance has been reviewed so far, and the details of their performance during the past three years, indicating the export potential of different agro and agricultural products; and

(c) the decisions taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. A peer evaluation of the performance of the existing Agri Export Zones (AEZs) with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets and suggest remedial action has been carried out.

(b) The performance of the Agri Export Zones (AEZs) forming as part of the peer evaluation is given below

Sl. No	AEZ Project	State	Actual Exports (Rs. in crores)		
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Pineapples	West Bengal	0.04	0.20	0.20
2	Mango	West Bengal	20.00	74.00	74.00
3.	Gherkins	Karnataka	548.31	681.19	960.19
4	Flowers	Karnataka	1.53	20.00	20.00
5.	Basmati Rice	Punjab	0.00	1521.00	1521.00
6	Mangoes and Vegetables	Uttar Pradesh	0.47	0.47	0.47
	Mangoes	Uttar Pradesh	0.29	12.49	12.49
7	Basmati Rice	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	Grapes and grapevine	Maharashtra	287.00	287.00	287.00
9	Flowers	Maharashtra	18.00	18.00	18.00
10	Onions	Maharashtra	588.00	588.00	588.00 "
11	Mango Pulp & Fresh Veg.	Andhra Pradesh	426.44	426.44	426.44
12	Apple	Jammu & Kashmir	4.80	55.18	55.18
13.	Walnuts	Jammu & Kashmir	230.00	313.30	313.30
14.	Organic pineapple	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Potatoes, Onion & Garlic	Madhya Pradesh	11.62	15.99	15.95
16.	Wheat (Durum)	Madhya Pradesh	1.65	31.00	21.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
17	Flower	Tamil Nadu	0.30	33.40	33.40
18	Lychee, Vegetables & Honey	Bihar	5.87	5.87	5.87
19	Value Added Onion	Gujarat	93.42	93.42	150.00
20	Flowers and Cherry Pepper	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	Apples	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	Ginger and Turmeric	Orissa	0.00	1.25	1.76
23	Vegetables	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	Horticulture Products	Kerala	212.00	212.00	212.00
25	Fresh & Processed Ginger	Assam	2.17	2.17	2.17

(Source: APEDA)

The AEZs were sanctioned based on the export potential of the agri products identified in the study carried out for the purpose.

(c) An action plan based on the findings of the peer evaluation drawn up in consultation with the State Governments, includes constitution of the State Level Coordination Committee and Monitoring Committee and nomination of nodal agencies for the AEZ. It has also been decided to engage M/s. Yes Bank as advisor for fast tracking development of AEZs and support export infrastructure projects in the AEZs with funds from the Scheme of Department of Commerce for Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development. One of the guidelines under the plan is a self imposed embargo on creation of new AEZs unless there are strong and compelling reasons.

Export of Iron-Ore

872. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of exports of iron-ore from India, category-wise, such as 62 per cent Fe+, 62 per cent Fe- and fines, year-wise, during the last three years;

(b) what are the justifications for continuing exports of iron-ore of different categories and the fines considering the massive investment projects in the steel sector; and

(c) whether the Government would consider stopping exports altogether, except iron-ore containing less than 55 per cent Fe-, considering the limited resources of iron-ore?